



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Contractor and Retired Police Detective Found Guilty in 2008 Shooting

WASHINGTON - Ronald Johnson, a 51 year-old Maryland resident, and Sheldon Hargrove, a 52 year-old former Detective Sergeant with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), have been found guilty for their roles in a daytime shooting that occurred on May 27, 2008, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced today. Johnson, a general contractor from Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was found guilty by a D.C. Superior Court jury of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Possession of a Firearm During a Crime of Violence, Carrying a Pistol Without a License, and related offenses. Hargrove, who retired from the Metropolitan Police Department in 2007 and now resides in Camp Springs, Maryland, was found guilty of Carrying a Pistol Without a License, Possession of an Unregistered Firearm, and Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

When he is sentenced on July 23, 2010, by the Honorable Robert E. Morin, Johnson will face a mandatory minimum sentence of five years of incarceration and a maximum sentence of fifteen years. Hargrove will be sentenced on the same day and faces a maximum sentence of five years of incarceration.

According to the government's evidence at trial, on May 27, 2008, during the late afternoon hours, Johnson became involved in a protracted dispute over wages with one of his employees while seated in his truck in the 1600 block of 28th Street, SE. During the course of the argument, Johnson called Hargrove and asked for his assistance. The two defendants had been friends for over thirty years. Hargrove drove to 28th Street armed with a loaded semi-automatic pistol. The employee saw the men exchange something, and then watched Hargrove drove away.

Johnson returned to his truck now armed with Hargrove's pistol and proceeded to shoot his employee twice in the chest at close-range. The injured employee fled the truck and ran away. Johnson ran down the street after the man and continued to fire the weapon until all his ammunition was expended. An off-duty MPD officer heard the shots and took action to apprehend Johnson.

In announcing the jury's verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of MPD Detectives Kenneth

Goldberg, Thurman Stallings, and Robert Kacelowicz who investigated the case. He also commended the work of Crime Scene Technician Martin Fosso who processed the crime scene and gathered valuable forensic evidence and Officer Johnnie Barnes who observed the shooting while off-duty and was crucial in preventing Johnson's escape. U.S. Attorney Machen also credited the work of U.S. Attorney's Office Paralegal Anthony Griffith and the entire Litigation Support Unit for their invaluable assistance preparing the case for trial. Finally, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth Adam Meinero, who investigated and indicted the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bryan Seeley and Adam Schwartz, who tried the case.